

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (canceled)

2. **(currently amended)** A body fluid absorbent wearing article, comprising:

a liquid-pervious topsheet;

a liquid-impervious backsheet;

a liquid-absorbent panel disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet;

said panel comprising a first fibrous assembly sub-panel lying on a side of said topsheet and having a compressive restoring elasticity, and a substantially flat second fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;

said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having opposite upper and lower sides, the upper side being adjacent said topsheet, the lower side being further from said topsheet than the upper side, said first fibrous assembly sub-panel comprising on the lower side thereof a substantially flat portion spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel by a first given dimension and a plurality of protuberant portions extending from said flat portion toward said second fibrous assembly panel so as to bear against said second fibrous assembly sub-panel; and

said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having a fiber density increasing progressively toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel which has a fiber density higher than that of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;

~~The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 1,~~ wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a plurality of wall portions each extending from said flat portion

toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, being spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel by a second given dimension smaller than said first dimension, and serving to connect one pair of the adjacent protuberant portions with each other.

3. (previously presented) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 2, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density of 0.03-0.10 g/cm<sup>3</sup> in said flat portion and a fiber density of 0.05-0.15 g/cm<sup>3</sup> in said protuberant portions as well as in said wall portions, and said second fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density of 0.10-0.50 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

4-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A body fluid absorbent wearing article, comprising:

a liquid-pervious topsheet;

a liquid-impervious backsheet;

a liquid-absorbent panel disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet;

said panel comprising a first fibrous assembly sub-panel lying on a side of said topsheet and having a compressive restoring elasticity, and a substantially flat second fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;

said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having opposite upper and lower sides, the upper side being adjacent said topsheet, the lower side being further from said topsheet than the upper side, said first fibrous assembly sub-panel comprising, on the lower side thereof:

~~The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 2, wherein~~

~~the substantially flat portion on the lower side of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel comprises~~ multiple flat areas spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel by a first given dimension,

a plurality of protuberant portions extending from said flat areas toward said

second fibrous assembly panel so as to bear against said second fibrous assembly sub-panel,

a plurality of wall portions each extending from said flat areas toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, being spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel by a second given dimension smaller than said first dimension, and serving to connect one pair of the adjacent protuberant portions with each other,

each of said flat areas being completely surrounded by a number of said protuberant portions and said wall portions, wherein each pair of adjacent said areas are unconnected and separated by at least one said protuberant portion or at least one said wall portion; and

said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having a fiber density increasing progressively toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel which has a fiber density higher than that of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel.

27-32. (canceled)